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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1961

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS 1961

Medical Officer of Health and Divisional M.O.
for North Herts area:

V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Housing Officer:

R. V. LAMEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy:

A. E. Flintoff, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING LIBRARY

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

P. Hodges, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

I. C. Prowse, A.R.S.H. (Commenced April, 1961)

Offices:

Medical Officer of Health:

Divisional Health Office, 12 Brand Street, Hitchin. Tel: 3757.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

10 High Street, Stevenage. Tel: 436-7-8.

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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1961

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage
Urban District Council.

I present the above report prepared in accordance with the directions of Ministry of Health Circular 1/62.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	5,895
Home Population - Mid 1961 (Registrar General's Estimate)	43,600
Number of habitable houses at 31.12.61	12,670
Rateable Value at 31.12.61	£761,780
Estimated product of a Penny Rate (1961/62)	£2,980

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1961

	Totals	Male	Female	STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rate for England & Wales
LIVE BIRTHS					
Legitimate	1,093	562	531		
Illegitimate	35	20	15		
	1,128	582	546		
Rate per 1,000 population				25.9	17.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births				3.1%	

	STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rate for England & Wales

STILL BIRTHS

	Totals	Male	Female
Legitimate	16	10	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	16	10	6

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	14.0	18.7

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

Total	Male	Female
1,144	592	552

DEATHS

Total	Male	Female
203	110	93

Rate per 1,000 population	4.6	12.0

INFANT DEATHS

	Total	Male	Female
Under 1 week	18	12	6
At 1 - 4 weeks	3	1	2
At 4 - 52 weeks	8	7	1
	29	20	9

		STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rate for England & Wales
Infant Mortality Rates			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births		25.7	21.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	25.6		
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	28.1		
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)		18.6	15.5
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	16.0		
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	29.7		
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)			
Number of deaths	None		
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		0.0	0.33

Comment on Vital Statistics

With the total of live births (1,128) almost the same as for the previous year (1,124) the local birth rate (25.9) is lower but still much above the national rate (17.4). The local death rate of 4.6 is still only one fifth of the birth rate, showing that Stevenage will not become a town of average age distribution for some years; the comparability factor of 2.38 supplied by the Registrar General produces a 'standardised' death rate of 10.9 (England and Wales 12.0).

The estimated mid-year population for 1961 of 43,600 gave an annual increase of 5,170, checked by the May, 1961 Census, but again out of date after ten months by continued inward migration.

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 42, of which 18 (13 males and 5 females) were from cancer of the lung or bronchus. From motor vehicle accidents local deaths this year number 5 (all males), while all other accidents numbered 6 (2 male and 4 female).

One infant death during the year was certified due to whooping cough and one adult male from a form of tuberculosis other than respiratory.

Although the local incidence of measles was very heavy there was no local occurrence of serious infectious diseases.

The sum of local stillbirth and infant death rates is seen almost identical with the national figure, the first being lower and the second higher by the same percentage.

The following table shows the main local vital statistics over the ten years 1952 - 1961:-

		Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mort. Rate
1961	...	25.9	4.6	25.7
1960	...	29.2	4.8	22.2
1959	...	29.2	5.0	15.8
1958	...	30.1	5.2	13.2
1957	...	31.1	5.3	18.4
1956	...	30.8	5.4	17.7
1955	...	28.4	6.0	11.6
1954	...	29.1	6.8	12
1953	...	24.8	7.7	29
1952	...	20.8	7.7	6

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The local sanitary authority services were unchanged during the year.

SECTIONS C to E

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA & INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

For the year 1961 notifications of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: Measles 1,244, Scarlet fever 41, Whooping cough 12, Acute pneumonia 12 and Puerperal pyrexia 4.

Measles is seen to have had an epidemic prevalence, mainly in the second quarter. In comparison, Whooping cough notification is seen to have been remarkably infrequent, suggesting any incidence to be mainly of very low severity and frequently not conclusively identifiable. However, one (male) infant death was recorded from such cause.

Scarlet fever had again a mild prevalence throughout the year, almost confined to pre-school and infant school ages.

Acute pneumonia notifications fell mainly in the first quarter during a period of prevalence of Asiatic Influenza.

There was again during the year no single notification either of Anterior Poliomyelitis, Enteric illness or of Food Poisoning.

IMMUNISATION

The availability for the whole year of the 'three-in-one' TRIPLE antigen - against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus - has lead to a steadily increased acceptance by parents. Similarly the offer early in the summer to children of primary school age of a fourth protective dose of Salk vaccine against poliomyelitis had an acceptance rate over seventy-five per cent, occasioning considerable extra work for staffs of both health department and primary schools.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the Year 1961

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	4	1	-	-	-	1	-

Comment: For the year new notifications of 10 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory gave a total exactly half the somewhat high total of 22 for 1960; it is seen that a group of middle aged males continue to be picked up, probably from the continued regular local availability of mass radiography.

In addition inward transfers to the local register from other districts numbered 39 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory notifications.

The one single death credited to the district was from a non-respiratory form of disease.

In conclusion, I would acknowledge having received every help during the year from your chief officers; particularly I would acknowledge the most valuable assistance from your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. V. Lamey, who is responsible for the compilation of the Sanitary sections of this report.

Your obedient Servant,

V. R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1962.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1961

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage
Urban District Council.

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

i) Water Supply

The Lee Valley Water Company are the water undertakers for the area.

The water supply is regularly sampled by your officers, and during the year, I submitted 173 samples to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton for bacteriological examination - all proved satisfactory. 13 chemical samples taken by the Water Authority also proved satisfactory.

An adequate supply of water throughout the area is being maintained.

ii) Sewage Disposal

All main foul water drainage from the town is now dealt with at the Ryemead Sewage Works at Hertford. Few properties remain connected to cesspools or septic tank installations, and these will further decrease as extensions of the main sewerage systems take place.

iii) Refuse Collection

The Public Cleansing Services are controlled by the Council's Surveyor. No tipping is carried out in the town; all refuse is transported some 11 miles away to a site at Holwell, near Hitchin.

The Council operates a Waste Paper and Trade Refuse Collection Service.

iv) Rodent Control

Complaints of rat and mice infestation again show an increase on the previous year's figures, and overtime working has been necessary in order to deal with the increased complaints. It is hoped to provide the Rodent Operator with mechanical transport during 1962 in order to enable him to deal promptly with the necessary treatments.

The increase in the rat population is not peculiar to Stevenage, but appears general to many parts of the country, particularly in the eastern counties, and is no doubt related to the cessation of activity by the Ministry of Agriculture, who have, since 1958/9, ceased to operate their rodent control services to farms.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out during the year are as follows:-

Total inspections	2,903.
No. of infested properties found ...	738.
No. of infested properties treated	724.
Complaints received	466.

The infestations were classified as follows:-

Major infestation - Rats	147.
Minor infestation - Rats	555.
Major infestation - Mice	3.
Minor infestation - Mice	33.

v) Open Air Market

The Council operate a Friday and Saturday Open Air Market in the New Town Centre. No open food, other than fruit or vegetables, is permitted to be sold from the stalls; meat, fish, shell fish, fried fish, ice cream and refreshments may be obtained from five mobile shops, which all satisfy the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Hot and cold water supplies, together with sinks, are provided for the washing of stallholders' equipment, and a new public convenience, with hot and cold washing facilities and hand drying equipment, is also provided for stallholders.

The market is administered by the Public Health Department.

vi) Knackers Yard

There is one licensed Knackers Yard in the town. This is of model design and is maintained in a satisfactory condition. The premises are regularly inspected.

vii) Petroleum Installations

51 licences for the storage of Petroleum and Petroleum Mixtures have been issued during the year. Four new petroleum stores and four underground installations have been constructed in an approved manner, and air pressure tests on tanks and fuel lines have proved satisfactory.

viii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA
ANALYSIS OF VISITS

Disinfestation	...	220
Drainage defects	...	128
Factories including canteens	...	210
Food Premises	...	964
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	...	60
Knackers Yard	...	18
Moveable Dwellings	...	200
Mobile Vans	...	187
Public Health & Housing Act Inspections (including revisits)	...	1,361
School kitchens	...	42
Slaughterhouses	...	1,115
Miscellaneous visits	...	1,615

SECTION E

i) Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises

All food premises, which are, in the main, of modern construction, satisfy the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, and the hygienic standards maintained by the staffs is generally good.

Details of the food trades, including those contained in the Supermarkets, are as follows:-

Bakehouses	...	8
Bakers	...	17
Butchers	...	28
Cafes	...	14
Canteens	...	49
Confectioners	...	25
Fishmongers	...	9
Greengrocers	...	28
Grocers	...	40
Guest Houses	...	7
Hotels	...	4
Licensed Premises	...	35

ii) Registration of Food Premises

(a) Food & Drugs Act, 1955

Premises registered under Section 16 of this Act are as follows:-

Sale of Ice Cream	...	56
Sale of Preserved Food etc.	...	31

(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949/54

There are no registered dairies within the town. Licences have been granted to 23 dealers and 2 distributors, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

Regular visits were made to premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream and the preparation or manufacture of sausages and other foods intended for sale. Those premises selling Ice Cream, but excluded from registration under the Food and Drugs Act, were also inspected.

iv) Disposal of Condemned Food

During the year, apart from meat condemned at the private slaughterhouse, 19-cwt. 5-lbs. 12¾-ozs. of foodstuffs were condemned at various food premises in the town. All condemned food is stained with a naphthalene dye and removed from the food shops by the Council's Refuse Collection Service; strict control is exercised over its disposal.

v) Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations

A regular check is made of the many Ice Cream vendors operating within the town. There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in Stevenage.

vi) Sampling

The following samples were taken during the year:-

		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Milk	...	204	--
Water	...	173	--
Ice Cream	...	229	--

vii) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

There is now only one private Slaughterhouse in the town, which has been re-constructed and enlarged, in accordance with plans approved by the Council and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Appointed Day for completion of these works was the 1st July, 1961. There are 17 persons licensed by the Council to act as Slaughtermen.

A considerable increase in the number of animals slaughtered again occurred in 1961, when 21,257 animals were slaughtered, as against 18,051 in 1960 and 15,648 in 1959. There has also been an increase of nearly 25% in the number of cattle slaughtered.

During the year, 4-tons 7-cwt. 3-qrs. 23-lbs. of meat and offal were condemned at the Slaughterhouse. Condemned meat is stained and then collected by an approved processor, in accordance with the provisions of the Meat (Staining and Sterilising) Regulations, 1960.

The Slaughterhouse in Stevenage, whilst of modern design, is relatively small, and in order to maintain this throughput, it is necessary for slaughtering to continue late every evening, including Saturdays and Sundays, and once again at least 500 hours overtime have been worked by your officers during the year. It is regretted that no legislation has yet been passed that would control the hours of slaughter within reasonable limits.

I am pleased to report that a 100% meat inspection service has still been maintained, and I would particularly like to record my thanks to my deputy, Mr. A. E. Flintoff, for the willing manner with which he has co-operated with me in this work.

vii) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection (Cont'd.)

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
NUMBER KILLED	1571	478	17,528	1,680	Nil
NUMBER INSPECTED	1571	478	17,528	1,680	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI Whole carcases condemned	Nil	2	1	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	309	3	2,277	697	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	19.67	1.05	13.00	41.49	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcases condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	19	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.13	Nil	Nil	1.13	Nil
CYSTICERCOSIS Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

General

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Public Health Inspectors and other members of the staff for their loyal service, valuable assistance, and co-operation throughout the year.

Your obedient Servant,

R. V. LAMEY

Chief Public Health Inspector.

July, 1962.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1961 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF STEVENAGE IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(PART I)

INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect-ions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	24	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	73	111	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	35	75	5	-
Total	116	210	5	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remed-ied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	9	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	13	13	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Not-ices Served	Pros-ecut-ions
Wearing apparel making etc.	29	-	-	-	-	-
Total	29	-	-	-	-	-